

**SKYWARN
Recognition
Day 2002**

Rules of Engagement

(or How To Survive The Quest For The SRD Certificate)

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Text borrowed (heavily) from emails from Scott Mentzer of the NWS

Welcome

Welcome to SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) 2002. This booklet was compiled for the sole purpose of guiding you along the quest for the SRD Certificate. This information will help you enjoy the event.

I've tried to organize this booklet to some degree, however, I didn't want to spend a lot of time stressing everyone out (me included). **Remember, this is NOT a contest**, "This event is meant to recognize the contributions that amateur radio operators make to NWS warning operations... and to strengthen the bonds between amateur radio operators and the NWS." So..... DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY! Have fun and enjoy yourself!

SKYWARN Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service. During the day SKYWARN operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world.

Operating Procedures

SRD takes place this year on December 7, 2002, from 0000 to 2400 UTC.

As always, observe good operating practices. Also, remember this is not an amateur radio contest. If you make contact with a SKYWARN operator who wants to "chew the fat" about a big storm last year, great! Take some time, listen, and show your appreciation about his or her efforts.

Amateur radio operators who routinely participate in SKYWARN or ARES activities will transmit from approximately 100 National Weather Service offices during SKYWARN Recognition Day. Environment Canada is also participating this year.

Try to contact as many NWS stations as you can. When you make a contact, exchange signal report, QTH, and current weather. For example, ***"Your signal report is 59 from the NWS office in Goodland, Kansas. The weather is sunny."***

You can earn a SKYWARN Recognition Day certificate by working just one NWS station. However, you can also earn endorsements that are placed on the certificate by working various NWS stations in various categories.

Every so often, you'll get a question about SRD. Here's a good response:

"This is a special event for SKYWARN Recognition Day cosponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service. To recognize the contributions that amateur radio operators make to the NWS during critical weather, SKYWARN operators at over 100 National Weather Service offices are on the air today."

Here's another good answer:

"You can find details about SKYWARN Recognition Day at <http://hamradio.noaa.gov> or in the November edition of QST magazine - page 83."

If you get any questions about event certificates, inform them the certificate dimensions are 8 1/2 x 11. Operators must send an SASE with a list of NWS stations they worked (or the endorsement checklist). Send the request via WX0GLD or to 920 Armory Road, Goodland, Kansas 67735.

Where To Operate?

You may have questions about where to operate on the bands. There is no frequency band plan. Find a clear frequency (remember, "clear" is the key word) and begin operating. Many stations place their band location on the DX Summit web site (<http://oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs/>) once they've attained a frequency. You may want to consider that. However, hams will find your station.

NWS stations will operate on the following meter bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meters. Some stations will also operate on 70 cm. See the station list for further details. Repeater and Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) contacts are allowed - in fact, they are encouraged. NWS stations will use different modes. Some stations will send CW, others will use PSK-31, still others will use RTTY. All stations will have SSB or FM Phone capability. When operating CW, PSK-31, or any non-voice mode, append **/NWS** to your call sign. For example, N0A/NWS.

Remember, 160 meters and the WARC bands are off limits during SRD.

There are a number of morning nets on Saturday. Please be courteous and give the nets room to operate. If a net requests you to move to another frequency, **please do so**. Most nets last only 30-60 minutes.

Special Pearl Harbor Day Instructions

If you happen to hear the Pearl Harbor stations on the air, try to give them some space to operate.

Since SRD occurs on Pearl Harbor Day this year, we're going to do something special. From 1800-1900 UTC (roughly, the time of the attack), we will not exchange local weather. Instead, exchange signal report, QTH, and the 1941 Pearl Harbor weather.

Courtesy of the fine folks at Hickam Field, we received the following hourly weather data for Pearl Harbor during 1941:

- Mostly sunny
- Northeast wind at 15 mph
- Temperature 75 degrees

An example of the exchange would be: ***"Your signal report is 59 from the NWS office in Goodland. The weather at Pearl Harbor in 1941 was mostly sunny with northeast winds at 15 mph and a temperature of 75 degrees."*** Please use this in the weather exchange between 1800 and 1900 UTC. You'll probably get some questions about this. Just explain that SRD occurs on Pearl Harbor Day this year and we are recognizing the sacrifices of the men and women at Pearl Harbor that day. Again, this only happens from 1800-1900 UTC.

To qualify for the Pearl Harbor Endorsement on the certificate, hams must work any one NWS office between 1800 and 1900 UTC AND the NWS office in Honolulu at any time during the event.

Remember, use the 1941 Pearl Harbor Weather as part of the exchange from 1800-1900 UTC during the event.

Side note: The weather observations continued during and after the attack! Sector visibilities dropped to one mile due to "thick smoke". The weather observer did his duty during the attack – pretty impressive.

Proposed Special Event Scripts

The following scripts can be used during SRD. You, of course, may develop your own. It is not necessary to read the scripts with every contact. I'd recommend once every 15-30 minutes unless you get a question about the event.

After sending your signal report, QTH and WX exchange, one of the following can be used:

"This is a National Weather Service special event station celebrating the contributions of amateur radio operators during times of severe weather. There are over 100 National Weather Service stations operating this Saturday through 2400 UTC. Operators are encouraged to contact as many NWS stations as possible."

"To obtain a special QSL certificate, send an SASE in care of WX0GLD. Include a list of all the SKYWARN Recognition Day stations you worked. You may also request a certificate from the National Weather Service, 920 Armory Road, Goodland, KS, 67735."

"This is a National Weather Service special event station celebrating SKYWARN Recognition Day. Further information about the event may be obtained on the internet at <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>. Information may also be found in the November edition of QST magazine - page 83."

*****Pearl Harbor Day Script (Only use between 1800 and 1900 UTC)*****

"To remember the sacrifices made by the men and women at Pearl Harbor in 1941, SKYWARN Recognition Day stations are transmitting the weather conditions that occurred right before the attack. The 1941 Pearl Harbor weather was mostly sunny. The temperature was 75 degrees. Winds were from the northeast at 15 mph."

Certificate With Endorsements

The National Weather Service Special Event will award a certificate with endorsements (see below) to give amateur radio operators something to shoot for. An endorsement is basically a sticker that is placed on the certificate if certain goals are reached.

To Obtain Your Certificate:

1. Use this Certificate Log or create a handwritten log of NWS stations worked and indicate the endorsements you are applying for.
2. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope (important)
3. Mail both items to the QSL certificate issuing official listed below:

SKYWARN Recognition Day
920 Armory Road
Goodland, KS 67735

Please remember to enclose the self-addressed stamped envelope.

Endorsements and NWS Station List updated 12/02/2002:

- Blizzard Endorsement (contact at least 5 to qualify for endorsement)

- Fire Weather Endorsement (contact at least 8)
- Flood Endorsement (contact at least 6)
- Great Lakes Mariner Endorsement (contact at least 4)
- Hurricane Endorsement (contact at least 6)
- Lake Effect Snow Endorsement (contact at least 3)
- Mighty Mississippi River Endorsement (contact at least 5)
- Monsoon Endorsement (contact at least 4)
- Nor'easter Endorsement (contact at least 4)
- Pacific Mariner Endorsement (contact at least 4)
- Tornado Endorsement (contact at least 10)
- Digital Endorsement (contact any NWS station using digital mode)
- Special Pearl Harbor Day Endorsement (Contact Honolulu, HI KH6SW anytime) PLUS contact any NWS station between 1800 & 1900 UTC)
- WX Call Endorsement (Contact at least 18 WX calls)

Miscellaneous Stuff

The NWS is looking for some digital pictures about this year's SRD. The pictures should depict some NWS employees interacting with SKYWARN operators - e.g., working the radios, assisting with antennas, that sort of thing. If you get some photos, please email them to Larry Boyd (larry.boyd@noaa.gov). Try to limit yourself to two or three photos.

The station in Tampa will operate from the Tampa Bay Hamfest at the Manatee County Civic Center. Representatives from the NWS office will attend the convention and help get the station on the air. This is the third consecutive year the Tampa station has been able to join the Tampa Hamfest. SKYWARN operators and representatives from the West Central Florida ARRL section do a great job with this every year.